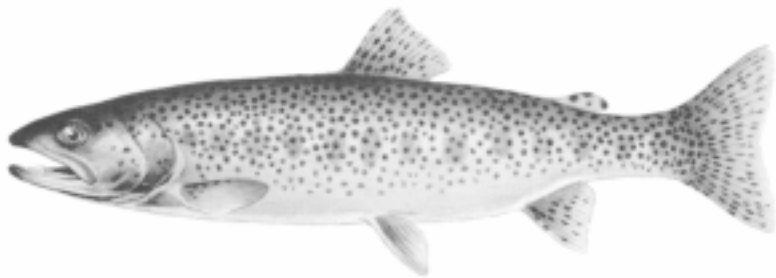


COAST CUTTHROAT TROUT

Salmo clarkii clarkii



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The back is usually dark olive green. The sides are much lighter and the belly is silvery white.

Usually a pair of red streaks, the cutthroat marks, are present on the membrane between the jawbones.

The entire body and all the fins are usually spotted with large, distinct, black spots or irregular marks. However, the spotting does not extend to the lower sides and belly of all fish.

In addition to the cutthroat marks and the heavy spotting, at least three other characteristics serve to distinguish cutthroat trout from rainbow trout. In the cutthroat, the maxillary tends to be longer; the numbers of scale rows along the sides are greater (in other words the scales are smaller); and there are usually teeth on the base of the tongue. Although these three characteristics are frequently very helpful in identification, they cannot be depended upon in all cases.

DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

The coast cutthroat is found in the lower courses of most coastal streams from the Eel River northward. It is not generally abundant and seems to have difficulty competing with the rainbow. Limited numbers of sea-run cutthroat occur in these streams, but are somewhat difficult to distinguish from sea-run rainbows and so are often overlooked.

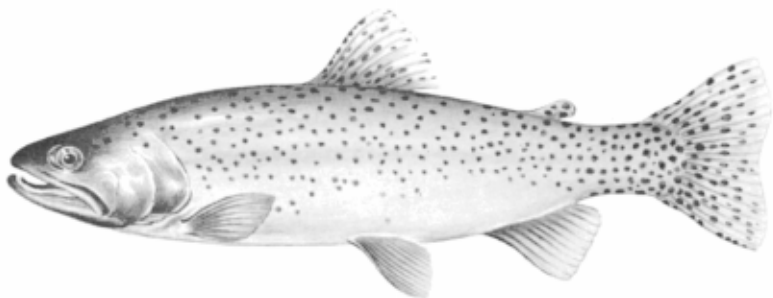
INTERESTING FACTS

Like the Dolly Varden, the coast cutthroat is a northern trout whose range extends only a short distance into California. It might be called the "redwood trout", for most of the California streams in which it lives are shaded by these giant trees.

This trout was originally described in 1836 by Sir John Richardson from fish caught in the Cathlapootl River in Oregon. It was named for Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT

Salmo clarkii henshawi



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The body is usually a dark, yellowish-olive color from back to belly. The side has a broad pinkish stripe. The sides of the head are often scarlet.

The entire body is covered with large, black spots.

Cutthroat living in deep water may be silvery with narrow, elongated spots.

There are two distinct red stripes on the membrane beneath the jaw. The Lahontan cutthroat shown in the drawing above is an old male with a heavy body, and a relatively humped back. Very often this species is more slender. Also, it should be noted that the black spots on the body are not always as numerous as shown here.

DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

In California the Lahontan cutthroat is a native of the Truckee, Walker, and Carson drainages and does not occur naturally in waters draining into the Pacific Ocean. This range has been extended somewhat by hatchery planting.

INTERESTING FACTS

This fish has been known as the Tahoe trout, for it was very abundant in Lake Tahoe until it became extinct or virtually so in the 1940's. Very large individuals ascended the tributary streams to spawn in April. Years ago there was a considerable market fishery for this fish, which was known as the "black-spotted trout". The most likely reason for its extinction was the introduction of the lake and rainbow trouts, although insurmountable irrigation dams on the Truckee River and the market fishery may well have been contributing factors.

PIUTE CUTTHROAT TROUT

Salmo clarkii seleniris



DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Highly colored individuals could be mistaken only for golden trout. However, they can hybridize with rainbow and Lahontan cutthroat and such hybrids may be considerably spotted.

The ventral surface is usually a clear white, making a contrasting background for the orange-red cutthroat marks beneath the jaw.

The parr marks (dark splotches along the sides) in the highly colored individuals are distinct, similar to those of golden trout.

DISTRIBUTION IN CALIFORNIA

The native habitat of this trout is restricted to upper Silver King Creek and its tributaries above Llewellyn Falls, an impassable barrier situated at the lower end of Fish Valley. Silver King Creek, a tributary of the East Carson River, is located in a remote region of Alpine County, east of the Sierra Divide. The Department of Fish and Game has transplanted some Piute cutthroats to other waters to insure the survival of the species, which is threatened by hybridization with planted rainbows.

INTERESTING FACTS

The Piute is a cutthroat trout which was separated a great many years ago from the Lahontan cutthroat living in the Carson River drainage below the falls. Through the centuries it developed a pattern of coloration which is very similar to that of golden trout.

This trout was originally described in 1933 by J. O. Snyder from specimens obtained in Fish Valley, Alpine County. It was named *seleniris* for its resemblance to the rainbow of the moon.